

Appln. of: BONATTI, Davide et al.
Appln. No.: 10/668,180

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A transfer unit for containers, rotatable about a vertical axis and comprising:

- a vertical shaft extending upward from a bed concentrically with the vertical axis;
- at least one set of means by which to take up and hold a relative container leaving a first conveyor positioned at a first height;
- said holding means being associated with respective means, slidable vertically in relation to a frame, which comprise a slide carrying said holding means;
- feed means by which the holding means are caused to advance along a predetermined path extending at least between the first conveyor and a second receiving conveyor positioned at a second height;
- said feed means comprising said frame, said frame constructed and arranged to be set in motion along said predetermined path consisting of a closed loop;
- means operating in conjunction with the holding means, by which the height of the selfsame holding means is varied during the course of their passage along the predetermined path; wherein said means operating in conjunction with the holding means for varying the height of the holding means includes means by which to guide the movement of the slides comprising a generally tubular element centered about the vertical shaft and which ~~that~~ presents a C-shaped cross-sectional profile, having a longitudinal opening through which the vertical shaft can laterally pass to allow replacement of, and is centered on the vertical shaft, the means by which to guide the movement of the slides ~~being replaceable to vary the movement of the slides.~~

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Claim 2 (Original) A unit as in claim 1, wherein holding means comprise means by which to grip the neck of a container.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 1, comprising a plurality of holding means.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 5, wherein the frame comprises a plurality of pairs of vertical guide elements each associated with respective holding means incorporating gripper means.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 6, wherein said shaft is aligned on said vertical axis, supports and drives the frame, the frame comprising a disc element, mounted to the top end of the shaft and carrying vertical guide elements equispaced angularly around the periphery.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 7, wherein the guide means comprises cam profile means.

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Claim 9 (Original): A unit as in claim 8, wherein cam profile means comprise a first track and a second track substantially complementary one to another, extending in combination around the closed loop path followed by the holding means.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 9, wherein the first track extends around the cylindrical outer surface presented by said tubular element of C-shaped cross section; the tubular element comprising coupling and fastening means operating in conjunction with fastening means afforded by the shaft, whilst the second track is presented by a sector appearing as an arc to a circle positioned with the concave side offered to the lateral opening in the C-shaped tubular element.

Claim 11 (Original): A unit as in claim 10, wherein the width of the opening presented by the C-shaped tubular element is such that the selfsame element can be distanced from the vertical shaft by displacement in a radial direction.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 1, wherein the slide incorporates engagement means designed to interact with a cam profile means.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A unit as claim 9, wherein engagement means comprise a first roller and a second roller passing respectively along the first track and the second track.

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Claim 14 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 1, wherein the slide comprises a pair of pivots supporting and enabling the angular movement of a pair of jaws providing the gripper means.

Claim 15 (Original): A unit as in claim 14, wherein at least one of the jaws is associated with respective actuating means designed to produce the opening and/or closing movement of the gripper means.

Claim 16 (Original): A unit as in claim 15, wherein the actuating means comprise a cam sector, and a following roller mounted to the end of an arm rigidly associated with one of the two jaws.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A unit as claim 12, wherein engagement means comprise a first roller and a second roller passing respectively along the first track and the second track.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 12, wherein the slide comprises a pair of pivots supporting and enabling the angular movement of a pair of jaws providing the gripper means.

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Claim 21 (New) A unit as in claim 1 and further comprising a bayonet joint for positioning
and fastening the means by which to guide the movement of the slides.